

# FIVE FOR WYCOMBE IN GLOOM GAME FULL OF MISTAKES

By "ARGUS"

Wycombe Wanderers 5, Clapton 2

**T**HERE was little skill to add sparkle to the Loakes Park proceedings on Saturday—just a rash of mis-directed passes, sloppy, ponderous approach work and some spectacular slips and slides as both the Wanderers and Clapton were well and truly caught out by the first rains of the soccer season.

Despite the five goals in the final quarter of an hour it was gloom, gloom all the way. Wycombe fans have seldom had it so bad.

The 5-2 score is a travesty as far as Clapton are concerned—an odd goal win was the most that the Wanderers deserved for this uninspired showing against the bottom-basement Isthmian League Club.

Clapton, holders of a famous and honourable amateur name, have really fallen on hard times. They have now scored only 11 goals in eight League games and conceded 27! Yet even this raw and undeadly looking forward line was able to cut through the Wycombe defence with such appalling ease that ambitious Wanderers fans must have had the shudders.

## SLITHERING

With the defences slithering unhappily on the surface grease, goals came with a bang in the last phase of the game—almost all of them the results of mistakes. But by that time the crowd was too wet and too fed up to care very much.

Few Wycombe players came through with enhanced reputations. One who certainly did was Ron Fryer—a ceaseless, tireless chivvies and harrier with constructive ideas.

Dominating the Wanderers' penalty area, John Fisher was the perfect stopper and Clapton No. 9 Vouldsen had to go awandering to escape this rugged warrior.

Another steady performer was young Dave Worley, in the side at left back because Johnny Beck has broken a wrist against Tooting. Worley won himself many fans by his quiet, authoritative play.

## BELOW PAR

Of the forwards, only Paul Bates and Michael Rockell

showed flashes of match-winning form. There were precious few signs of co-ordination about this line-up, with Atkins, Trott and Free below par.

First half play was very scrappy with attack after attack falling down because of the bad final pass. One of the best completed moves led to a fine goal from the head of Paul Bates. Atkins and Bates combined to screw the ball down the right wing and from the winger's centre Bates glanced a lovely header past goalkeeper Turner.

The Clapton forwards, with inside-left Terry Flynn outstanding, had their moments and Ken Brown was twice lucky not to see the ball in his goalnet.

Soon after the interval the game bubbled up into something like excitement with Cliff Trott heading against the Clapton crossbar and the visitor's right winger Payne scoring an offside goal.

## POWER DRIVE

Just when it seemed that we were never going to see Dennis Atkins shoot, the subdued Dennis let loose a 30 yards power-drive which fairly sizzled into goal.

In a farcical finish, Payne skated down the wing and somehow stabbed the ball past Brown as he was tackled by Jimmy Moring and almost immediately Ron Fryer restored the Wanderers' two goals lead when he doggedly charged through the centre all on his own.

As if they were shamed by this half back enterprise, the opposing forwards began to show more ideas and there was a minute of madness in the Wycombe goalmouth as Payne hit a goalpost and all five Clapton forwards failed to rub home a series of glaring defensive errors.

Terry Flynn robbed Brown to make the score 3-2 but back came Wycombe with a fluent solo goal from Bates. He snapped onto a loose ball and scored so easily. Trott added the fifth with almost no time to go, after Atkins had made the opening from a Fryer free kick.